

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on July 27, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 6-9, 17, and 38 are amended, claims 5, 10-16, and 21-32 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-4, 6-9, 17-20, and 33-38 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 9 and 36-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lademann et al. (U.S. 3,769,698) or Bull (U.S. 3,466,580), in view of Lawrence (U.S. 3,243,752). Claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lademann et al. or Bull, in view of Lawrence as applied to claim 9, and further in view of Weatherly (U.S. 4,639,708). Claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lademann et al. or Bull, in view of Lawrence as applied to claim 9, and further in view of Okamura (U.S. 5,639,566).

Claims 10 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 9 to incorporate the limitations of claim 10. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested with respect to claim 9. Additionally, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested with respect to claims 33-38 as depending on an allowable base claim.

Applicant has amended currently withdrawn claims 1 and 17 to included subject matter indicated to be allowable in the pending Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that at least claim 9 is generic to these claims and is in condition for allowance. Consideration and allowance of these claims and their dependent claims are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6944 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

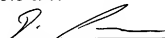
Respectfully submitted,

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By his Representatives,

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Date 11-21-06

By 
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 21st day of November 2006.

PATRICIA A. HULTMAN

Name


Signature